



CITY OF DEWITT

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2022
Vol 22 Issue 2



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SPRING NEWS

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ELECTION TIME!

New voter ID cards will be mailed out to all City residents.

The City Clerk reminds us about the upcoming elections & summer taxes. p. 04

Tech-Bytes

NEW WEBSITE & NEW ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The City of DeWitt has redesigned our website! With the new look, the website has moved to a .gov domain. The switch to the .gov domain is to ensure that our website and systems tied to the website are protected at the highest level of cyber security possible.

Invoice Cloud is a web-based, electronic invoice presentation and payment company that we have partnered with to provide faster, more convenient billing services to our residents. By automating billing and collections, residents can click and pay online while helping the environment and reducing clutter in their home or workspace. p. 04



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is so great to see everyone out and about enjoying the nice weather and our friendly community. The other night I walked over to City Hall to pick up some paperwork, and I could not help but notice the happy sounds of an anniversary party happening in our new Community Room. I am amazed and so pleased with how often the room is utilized. The rental fees, similar to the use fees for our parks, are very reasonable. We have seen so many different groups use the room – families, scouts, non-profit organizations, Home Owner Associations, political parties, programming for the DeWitt Area Recreational Authority, and now Silver Sneakers! We are sad to see the YMCA close, but, fortunately, the Community Room can fill the void and provide a space for this program that is so important to our senior citizens. The Community Room also provides a space for after-school care daily for children grades K to 5 through DARA. This service is invaluable to many parents in DeWitt, especially with so many parents working from home and needing a little “space.”

It is important to mention that we were able to build the Community Room because (almost 3 years ago) the bids for the City Hall project came in underestimates. The timing was fortuitous; today that would NOT be the case. We have also been able to keep the administrative and operational costs very low. We rely on the Department of Public Services staff to keep the facility clean. The DPS does a fabulous job all year round: picking up leaves, plowing the streets, keeping our parks attractive and clean, as well as all the preparation work that made our City cemetery look so beautiful for the Memorial Day service.

I also want to recognize the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club for the amazing work they do in the cemetery, on the bridge, at the gazebos, and our downtown. They are a creative and hard-working group that beautifies our city every year. Thank you for all you do!

Lastly, a quick note on the painted crosswalks, or rather the lack of paint on the downtown crosswalks. The painting project last fall was a huge hit in the community, and we were all so disappointed to see that it did not last through the winter. Be advised that we are going to have a Do-Over sometime this summer. We will use a different method to preserve the work this time, hoping that it will remain vibrant for at least a few years! Stay tuned to our web page for more information.

Wishing everyone a great summer filled with great moments that will be remembered for generations,

Best Regards,

Sue Leeming, Mayor.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

The mental health crisis in this county has been an ongoing topic of discussion in law enforcement as to how we respond and provide the necessary services for those in a mental health crisis for many years. The DeWitt Police department has been involved with the Tri-County Crisis Intervention Team since it held its first training in November of 2016. Its goal is to equip first responders with skills and information to maximize problem-solving capability for persons in mental, emotional, and co-occurring substance use crises to reduce violent outcomes and save lives. The week-long training encompasses a variety of mental health and neurological issues, as well as de-escalation, active listening, negotiation, and persuasion techniques. The training ends by putting it all together with a daylong scenario-based skills training for the officers to use the skills they have learned while being evaluated by experienced trainers.

Many of the agencies in Clinton County have sent officers to be trained in Crisis intervention and are using their skills to assist those in Clinton County who may have mental health or another type of crises. Since 2016, there has been 10 CIT training sessions with approximately 40 students per session. The DeWitt Police Department now has all full-time officers trained in CIT. If you are interested in learning more you can visit their website at www.tricountycit.com

If you know someone who is struggling with mental health issues and you or they need help, you can reach out to Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Community Mental Health at 517-346-8318. To schedule an appointment or access services, they can also be contacted online at <http://www.ceicmh.org>

If you know someone who may be struggling here in DeWitt and needs some assistance, feel free to call me here at the Police Department and we will assist in any way we can.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - DAN COSS

PLAYGROUND UPGRADES COMING TO RIVERSIDE AND SPORTS PARK!

The Parks, Recreation, Cemetery, and Tree Commission spent the last 12 months working on upgrades to 25+-year-old playground equipment at Riverside Park and the Sports Park. City Council approved the upgrades in May 2022. The equipment has been ordered and is anticipated to be installed in October 2022. Attached are a couple of renderings of what the new equipment will look like in each of the parks. Both play structures will include a new poured-in-place rubberized safety surface, in lieu of the mulch safety surface currently in use at each of the parks. We look forward to seeing everyone enjoy the new equipment!



CLERK'S CORNER - LISA GRYSEN

STATE PRIMARY TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 & GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

To vote before an election:

State Law requires the Clerk's Office to be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on the Saturday before an election. City Hall will be open on Saturday, July 30th.

To vote on election day:

Appear at your polling place on Election Day. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Polling location:

The polling location to vote is City Hall 414 E. Main Street. Precinct 1 votes in the Council Chambers, and Precinct 2 votes in the Community Room.

For additional information on Elections and Voting please visit our website at:
www.dewittmi.gov/elections/

THE CITY WILL BE SENDING NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS AS A RESULT OF REDISTRICTING WHICH CREATED NEW VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES. YOU SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CARD BEFORE THE AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION.

SUMMER TAXES

SUMMER TAXES ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

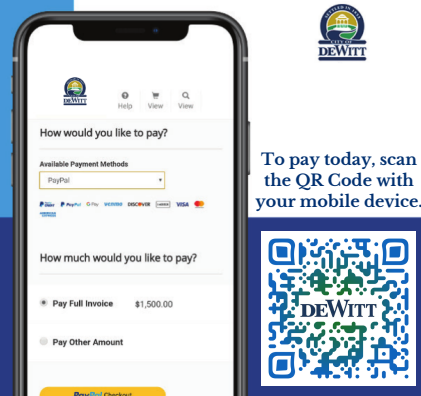
INVOICE CLOUD - PAYMENT PORTAL

Invoice Cloud is a web-based, electronic invoice presentation and payment company that we have partnered with to provide faster, more convenient billing services to our residents.

- Easy bill lookup - Search by address and last name
- Multiple payment options
- Pay for - Utility Bills, Taxes, Permits, Park & Community Room Rentals, Cemetery Fees

**Pay safe. Pay simple.
Pay fast. PayPal.**

Paying Taxes & Utility Bills are now as simple, safe and fast as making purchases. That's bill paying with PayPal. Try it today at www.dewittmi.gov





DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOE SPAGNUOLO

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. With Summer approaching and warmer weather, people will be outside with runners, walkers, bicyclists along with children playing. Slow down in your travels and stay watchful of the outdoor enthusiasts. Remember to stay hydrated while performing tasks outside during the warm weather.

We would like to acknowledge the longest-serving member of our department as he celebrates 30 years of service to our community. Firefighter Gary Ball began his service with our department in 1992. Firefighter Ball has served in many capacities throughout his career. He has served as our Emergency Medical Coordinator, Training Captain, and Fire Prevention Captain. After Gary retired from his career position with the State, he decided to return to firefighter status to spend more time with family. A 30-year commitment to any agency is a tremendous accomplishment. To dedicate 30 years to a service requiring responding at all hours of the day while maintaining a full-time career and raising a family is unheard of today. We are all very proud of Gary's accomplishment of serving 30 years and look forward to working with him as he continues to serve the Authority and the community.

If you ever have questions about how service is provided by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority, please feel free to call the station at 517-669-5004. The DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority is currently looking for dedicated individuals who would like to serve their community. If you have an interest or would like information about what we do and how we do it, feel free to contact our station or any member of the Authority. No experience is necessary as we provide training to those who need it.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

DDA Board Meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 P.M.

July 11 / August 8 / September 12

<https://dda.dewittmi.gov/>

The DeWitt Farmers Market is in full swing! Follow the Farmers Market on Facebook @dewittFM for updates on who will be there each week!

Hours of Operation for June - September are from 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

NEW hours of operation for October are from 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

For a list of downtown DeWitt businesses and upcoming events, please visit our website at

<https://dda.dewittmi.gov/>

Please follow us and all of our downtown businesses on Facebook!

CITY ASSESSOR—CHRIS COUCKE

Full-year PRE Deadline: June 1st
Winter PRE Deadline: November 1st

City Office hours Wednesday's 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Call or email for an appointment
Phone: (517) 669-2441
Email: assessor@dewittmi.gov

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Brush Pickup:

Pickup will begin Monday, September 19th. Brush must be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. The purpose of this program is to remove brush that is too large to be removed as part of the weekly yard waste-composting program. Brush must be neatly stacked with the large ends towards the street. Only brush that measures between 2" and 8" in diameter is accepted. Shrubs with roots still attached are not accepted.

Recycle Coach:

Make sure to download the "Recycle Coach APP" from App Store or Google Play Store to stay up to date on all Granger information and City Programs. Enjoy the convenience of trash and recycling collection reminders delivered straight to your smartphone; instant search results to sort your recyclables from non-recyclables; and so much more.



We've been taught to recycle. Now it's time to learn to recycle correctly. Download the [Recycle Coach](#) app.



DATES TO REMEMBER

July 17 - Summer River Clean Up
August 2nd - State Primary Election
August 6th - Locally Legit Downtown DeWitt Golf Outing
August 19th thru 21st - 76th Annual DeWitt Ox Roast
August 24th - Michigan Old U.S. 27 Motor Tour
September 11th - Fall River Clean Up
September 19th - Brush pickup will begin
September 30th - Summer Taxes Due